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competition either of employer or employee, individually or in combination. As to the interpretation of the statute, the soundness of the position taken may well be doubted; but in regard to the common law the conclusion reached can hardly be questioned.

The book is valuable for the complete collection of authorities. The reasoning is cogent, and the analysis able. It is written in a terse, vigorous style, which makes amends for minor failings in point of form, and is worthy of the attention both of lawyers and of economists. J. G. P.

COMMON-LAW PLEADING. By R. Ross Perry, of the Bar of the District of Columbia. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co. 1897. pp. xxvi, 494.

In the modest preface to this book the author disclaims any pretence to originality, and states his endeavor to have been to give in condensed form the best that has been said on his subject "by many authors in many books." The result is a complete and satisfactory work on the science of common-law pleading. Mr. Perry, however, has done more than he is willing to claim credit for. His comprehensive grasp and understanding of the theory and practice of pleading has contributed at least equally with his selections from other works to the successful result. The method and arrangement of the book are excellent. The historical development of the law is treated with the breath that a proper understanding of the subject requires. The reader is taken from the most primitive remedies involving mere self-help, to complicated actions before courts of law; the functions and jurisdiction of the English courts are explained, and the several forms of actions developed. The steps in an action from the original writ to judgment, are set out fully and clearly. In all this there is much original writing. Mr. Perry has taken bodily, with little modification, Chitty's statement of the principles of the common law with respect to actions, the essential portions of Stephen's commentaries on the rules of pleading, and Dicey's rules governing the selection of the parties to an action; he has also made free use of the third book of Blackstone's Commentaries in the chapter on the English courts. But whenever the matter treated of has been difficult or obscure, Mr. Perry's explanations have simplified it; and when mere general rules have been given, he has enlightened them with specific illustrations. An example of this is the abstract of the pleadings in a supposed case, given on page 227. The advantages to be derived from the study of special pleading are stated by the author in the introduction more forcibly than has perhaps elsewhere been done. The following passage, it would seem, must commend itself to the thoughtful reader: "The study of special pleading is not only essential to a correct understanding of the historical development of the law; it is most admirable and essential as an intellectual training. No man can be a strong reasoner who does not possess natural or acquired logic. No man can be a strong lawyer who has not, in addition to this logic, a clear knowledge of the logic of the law; and special pleading is the logic of the law." R. L. R.

HANDBOOK OF THE LAW OF EQUITY PLEADING. By Benjamin J. Shipman. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Co. 1897. pp. xii, 632.

The subject with which Mr. Shipman deals in this latest volume in the *Hornbook Series* is one that is peculiarly susceptible of useful treatment